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Cerrell Associates
Today In L.A.
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CHRIS SCHAUBLE: A new report card sheds some light on the quality of life right here in Southern California. And the results are nothing to brag about.

Today In L.A.'s Patrick Healy reports.

HASAN IKHRATA (SCAG): And if this is not a wake-up call for our leaders, I don't know what it is.

PATRICK HEALY: A stern assessment from Hasan Ikhata, director of planning and policy for the Southern California Association of Governments. SCAG's annual report card on the state of the region finds worsening problems with congestion, housing unaffordability, air quality and education.

IKHRATA: This report does not paint a good picture for Southern California.

HEALY: [to woman] What grade would you give Southern California?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I would give them maybe a C+.

2nd UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: A B, B+.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Straight C.

3rd UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I would have to go down to a D. Because, like you said, just traffic and it's not getting better – education, all the schools.

HEALY: On the plus side, with the crime rate down, public safety still rates a B from SCAG. Unemployment has slipped though not as much as elsewhere, B-minus. Income at 30,000 per capita, next to last among the 17th largest metro areas, C-minus.

Housing, prices rising so fast, fewer can afford to buy here: D+.

And then there's mobility, transportation, SCAG's main focus; yet this is still the nation's most congested region, delays costing every one of us 50 hours a year. Put a minus after last year's D.

Air quality now slipping again: C. Education, except for Orange and Ventura counties, 8th grade math and reading still below the national median. That's a D.

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The message for government with California's population again growing, unless these problems are fixed, they'll get only worse.

Reporting from Downtown for Today In L.A., Patrick Healy, Channel 4 News.

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